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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Children's Coalition for Fire Safe Mattresses
DATE OF MEETING: February 7, 2000
DATE OF LOG ENTRY: February 15, 2000
SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Allyson Tenney, ESME
LOCATION: US Consumer Product Safety Commission
Room 715, East West Towers
CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached attendees list
NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached attendees list
SUMMARY OF MEETING:

CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY
2000 FEB 17 P 2:17

Ron Medford, Director of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction, explained that the CPSC is committed to reducing fire hazards associated with mattresses and bedding. The National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) is currently conducting a testing program sponsored by the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA) to evaluate mattress and bedding flammability. When the testing is completed this spring, CPSC will review the results and make recommendations for possible Commission action.

Whitney Davis of the Children's Coalition for Fire-Safe Mattresses expressed concerns regarding the fire safety of mattresses and will be submitting a petition in the near future requesting that the CPSC mandate an open-flame standard for mattresses. Mr. Whitney proposes that the CPSC adopt either California Bulletin 129 or a modified version of British Standard BS5852, Part 2, Ignition Source 5.

Three young burn survivors described their experiences when involved in fires at their homes. One incident was the result of an electrical appliance. The other two incidents resulted from the children playing with matches.

Mr. Davis suggested that the CPSC educate consumers about the risks of fire by the use of labels and written materials.

Steve Lemberg of CPSC's OGC explained the difficulties with proving efficacy of labels as the benefits versus costs must be quantifiable as congressional mandate requires.

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Mr. Medford reiterated the CPSC's commitment to reducing fire hazards and explained the technical complexities of the problem. Mr. Medford explained that CPSC's approach has been to prevent ignition but to suggest that flame retardant polyurethane foam filling material is the answer oversimplifies the issue.